

**MINUTES
MACOMB COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2004**

President Perna began the meeting at 7:30 a.m. at Freedom Hill County Park.

ROLL CALL

In Attendance:

James M. Perna, President
Elmer J. Kuss, Vice President
Anthony J. Lipinski, Secretary
Dolores Thomas, Rep. Anthony V. Marrocco
Fran Gillett
Ann E. Klein
Peter J. Lund
Timothy M. Malone
Gasper Salerno
Marvin E. Sauger

Excused:

Dino F. Bucci, Jr.,

Others Present:

Anthony G. Casasanta, Sharon Quinn, and David Humbyrd of Parks & Recreation; Jim Meyerand, Corporation Counsel; Kevin Cassidy, Nick Contesti, and Cindy Rhodes Victor of Hillside Productions; Kathy Flesher, Nikki Van Doran, and Ava Demonja of WRIF; Bob Kozaitis, Greater Detroit Radio Group; Bev Weingarten, MDA; Sue Kebbe, Sterling Heights Parks & Recreation

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION BY KUSS, SUPPORTED BY SAUGER, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Fran Parker of Sterling Heights asked how much of the Park's budget pays for Hillside's utilities and when is the concert season ending.

Bill Wagner of Steeplechase Condominiums commented he has enjoyed going to the concerts at Freedom Hill but is quite concerned about the level of sound. The concerts have been extremely loud this year and can be heard from his condo in Clinton Twp.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MADE BY KLEIN SUPPORTED BY GILLETT, TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2004 AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

BUDGET REPORTS

Mr. Casasanta reported the park is receiving grounds rental as expected for this year and the budget is in good shape.

Commissioner Malone asked if there would be shortfalls with the budget. Mr. Casasanta commented monies from other line items could be shifted to accommodate any shortages.

MOTION BY KUSS, SUPPORTED BY SAUGER, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE BUDGET REPORT AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Casasanta reported on thank you letter from Macomb County Healthstyles Committee, and a letter regarding St. Jude's benefit.

MOTION BY KLEIN, SUPPORTED BY KUSS, TO RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Hillside Update

Kevin Cassidy wanted the Park's Commission to know that Hillside Productions will not hold a concert on the third Saturday in June of 2005 to reduce traffic and eliminate sound checks in order to accommodate the HarleyFest event.

Ms. Victor of Hillside Productions disseminated the settlement agreement to the Commission. Ms. Victor stated they have met the deadlines for submitting roof and sound wall plans to Judge Edmunds for review. Sound monitoring and reports have been submitted to the Court and the attorney for City of Sterling Heights on a timely basis. Payments and tax abatements, and waiver of fees have been met. Everyone has been in compliance.

Questions and answers were taken.

Commissioner Lund stated he expects Hillside to bring before the Commission the roof and sound wall construction designs for approval.

Further discussion ensued.

By all accounts construction of roof and sound wall likely will not happen this year.

The City of Sterling Heights was invited to the Commission meeting; however, no representative was present to comment on status of future construction projects at the amphitheater.

NEW BUSINESS

2005 C.C. Plus Dance Class Schedule Request

Mr. Casasanta reported we receive about \$2,400 from these classes and recommends continuing them at Freedom Hill as they have been well attended.

MOTION BY KLEIN, SUPPORTED BY SAUGER TO APPROVE THE C.C. PLUS DANCE CLASSES SCHEDULED FOR 2005 AS RECOMMENDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

Macomb Homeless Coalition Request for November 15, 2004

Mr. Casasanta recommended approval for this one-day event in the pavilion as requested by the Macomb County Homeless Coalition to help kick-off Homeless Awareness Week.

MOTION BY SAUGER, SUPPORTED BY KUSS TO APPROVE THE MACOMB HOMELESS COALITION'S REQUESTED EVENT FOR NOVEMBER 15, 2004 AS RECOMMENDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

2005 HarleyFest

Kathy Flesher and Nikki Van Doran of WRIF and Bob Kozaitis of Greater Detroit Radio Group were present to answer questions about the HarleyFest event. Ms. Flesher informed the Commission that the HarleyFest has raised over \$260,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in the last six years and is requesting to hold their seventh event at Freedom Hill in 2005. Ms. Flesher emphasized the 2005 event will be providing local bands on the stage, food concessions, motorcycle ride procession escorted by the police, security, and portable restrooms. Ms. Flesher responded to President Perna's question that the bands will start at noon in the pavilion and end at 10 p.m. and broadcasting will start at 10 a.m. and end about 10 p.m.

Mr. Casasanta reported on car counts in 1999 - 4357 vehicles were parked, in 2003 – 6756 vehicles were parked, in 2004 6770 vehicles were parked. The average car count over six years for HarleyFest has been 5,632 vehicles per year.

Questions and answers followed.

MOTION MADE BY KLEIN, SUPPORTED BY SAUGER TO ALLOW HARLEYFEST EVENT ON JUNE 18, 2005 WITH THERE BEING NO CONCERT AT THE AMPHITHEATER, BEER TENTS CLOSING AT 9:30 P.M., AND NO BANDS PLAYING BEYOND 10 P.M.

A discussion ensued.

A letter from the City of Sterling Heights regarding the HarleyFest event was disseminated to the Commission during the meeting.

CALL FOR THE QUESTION to end debate was made by President Perna. Roll call vote was taken.

ROLL CALL VOTE

	YES	NO
BUCCI	Absent	
GILLET	X	
KLEIN		X
KUSS		X
LIPINSKI		X
LUND		X
MALONE		X
THOMAS		X
PERNA	X	
SALERNO	X	
SAUGER	X	
TOTAL	5	5

No action was taken.

OTHER

Ms. Thomas did not understand the reason for ordering business cards for all the Parks and Recreation Commissioners.

Commissioner Malone asked if there has been any communication regarding Hillside's advertising contract. Mr. Meyerand said discussions are being conducted over advertising matters.

Commissioner Klein requested that Clinton Twp. Police Department, Sterling Heights Police Department and Sheriff Department be invited to the next commission meeting for input on the HarleyFest event.

Mr. Casasanta stated he would be meeting with the Road Commission this week concerning the repaving of the parking lot that is scheduled for October 1. He also commented that the Road Commission has put down chloride on the back road to reduce dust and Hillside helped with half the cost of \$2,400.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY KLEIN, SUPPORTED BY KUSS WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

President Perna adjourned the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting at 8:25 a.m.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Lipinski, Secretary
Macomb County Parks & Recreation Commission

AL/sq